

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2-40 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please note that Claim 1 is the only claim currently pending in this application and has been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (Original) A method of detecting life of an image bearing member comprising:
a contact time detecting step of detecting contact time when a developer carrying member that can have a contact or a clearance with an image bearing member contacts said image bearing member, said developer carrying member developing an electrostatic image formed in said image bearing member by a developer; and
a determining step of determining life of said image bearing member in accordance with a parameter calculated by using the contact time detected in said contact time detecting step.

Claims 2-40 (Cancelled).